

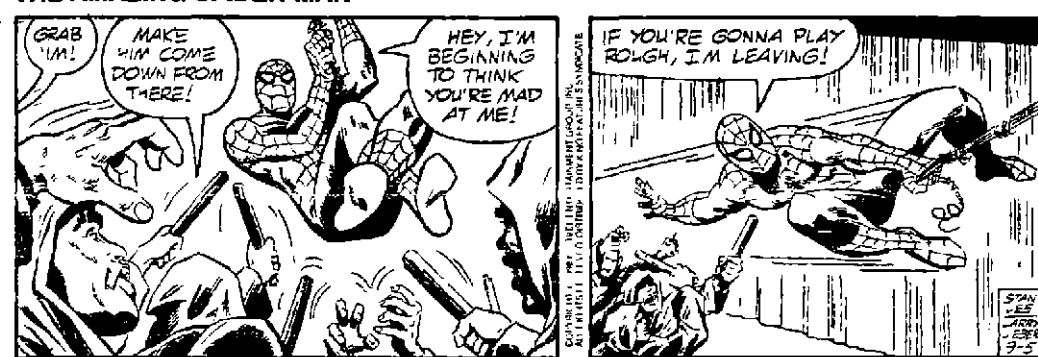
BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



ANDY CAPP



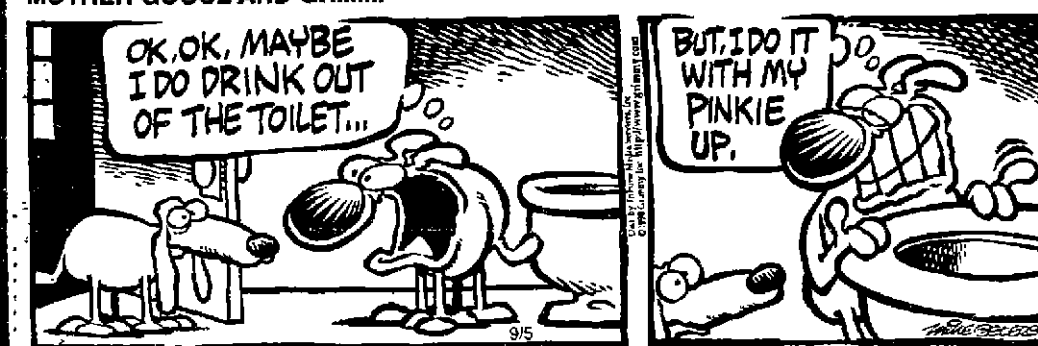
ROSE IS ROSE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



DILBERT



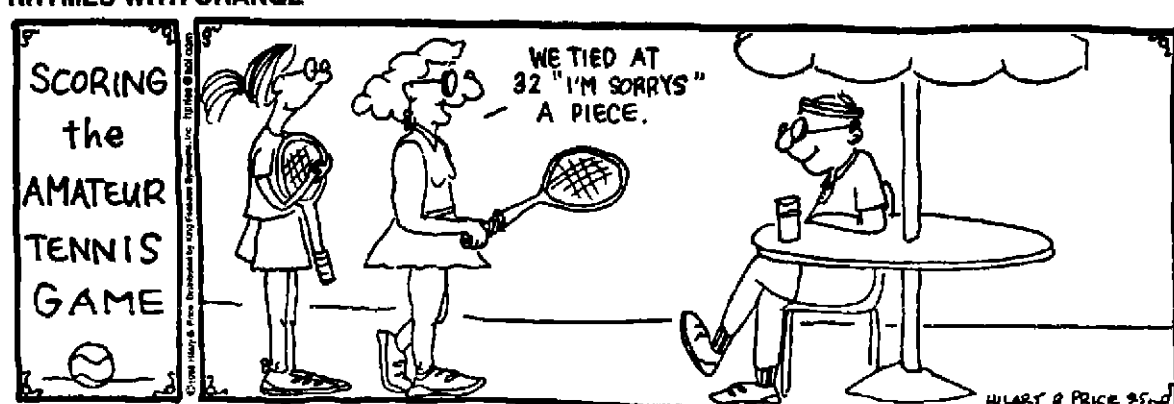
DENNIS THE MENACE



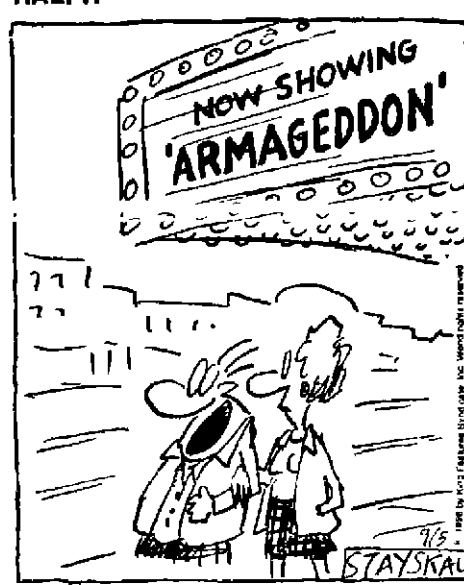
FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Comedian-actor Bob Newhart is 69. Actor William Devane is 59. Singer John Stewart is 59. Actress Barbra Streisand is 56. Singer Al Stewart is 53. Actor-director Dennis Dugan is 52. Drummer Buddy Miles is 52. "Cathy" cartoonist Cathy Guisewille is 48. Country musician Jamie Oldaker (The Tractors) is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Terry Ellis (En Vogue) is 32. Rock musician Brad Pitt (Against the Machine) is 30.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

SCRABBLE game board with letters and racks. Includes instructions and a par score of 165-175.

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

WORD SLEUTH puzzle with a grid of letters and a list of words found in the grid.

For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Sunday, Sept. 6, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Don't become so absorbed in your own fantasy world and untold theories that you lose touch with the outside world. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Suddenly you're everyone's darling. Make the most of this bout of popularity and accept all social invitations. GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Time for something brand spankin' new. Get out of this rut you've built for yourself and go exploring. CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A sudden dose of freedom that might have been quite daunting at first will reveal new opportunities for growth and success. LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You, like the groundhog, are afraid of the sight of your own shadow these days. Stick your head way out and look at the sunshine. VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Desultory thoughts have you floating and flitting all over the place. Focus. LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Mind your p's and q's and watch whom you tell what. Can you truly trust those you thought were on your side? SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Has a secret admirer or a new crush turned his or her attentions in your direction? SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If someone has stolen your possessions, you can expect their speedy return. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) The Band-Aid solution will see you through — this time. But the speedy fix won't always be there to make up for your lack of preparation. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) A good deal might turn out to be of cheap quality. Don't bargain shop for something important or fancy. PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) So many opportunities might come your way all at once that it's tough to decide which is best.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

"I make an overtrick if I find West with the spade ace," explained South. "And you may make an undertrick if you don't," replied North. "Instead of thinking about either, why not play to clinch the game?" Note the strength of South's opening pre-empt. Had partner not passed originally, this hand would be too strong for a pre-emptive bid. There would be too great a risk of losing a slam. However, after North's pass, the pre-empt was a wise tactical move. South ruffed the second club, drew trumps, and playfully cashed an extra round. Then he led a spade toward dummy, playing the king after West followed with his nine. West's signal was a useful one for East. The high-low doubleton signal told East that South had three spades, so East refused to win his spade ace. Sensing the danger in the spade suit, South felt back on the diamond finesse. It lost to West's king for the second defensive trick. And with two more unavoidable spade losers, South's game suffered a one-trick set. How does South guarantee his game? By forgetting about a possible overtrick. After drawing trumps, instead of leading spades, South should cash his diamond ace and surrender his queen. This sets up a diamond winner in dummy, and South avoids a second spade loser. He discards one spade on dummy's diamond jack, limiting the defense to only one trick in each side suit.

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 0725

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD puzzle with across and down clues.

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD puzzle grid with numbers.